

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Buck Creek School
other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S27-T11S-R19E ☐ not for publication
city, town Perry ☒ vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Jefferson code 087 zip code 66073

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

October 29, 1988
Date

Signature of certifying official Donna P. Brown
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Date

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Education; School; Schoolhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Social; Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other; Native limestone
Late Victorian; Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone
walls Stone: Limestone

roof Wood: Shingle
other Wood: Weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Buck Creek School (c. 1878) is located two miles east of Williamstown, Jefferson County, Kansas (pop. 75) on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S27-T11S-R19E. It stands in a rural area just north of State Highway 24. The one-story, gable roofed native limestone structure stands on a stone foundation. A two-story, hipped roof, wooden entry tower projects from the center of the facade. Wooden shingles cover the gable and tower roofs. The building's gable facade has a southern orientation. The building measures approximately twenty-five feet from east to west and forty feet from north to south. A dirt floor cellar stands underneath the northern half of the building. The building appears to be structurally sound except for some minor settling and a small water problem in the facade entry tower. The building is used as a meeting hall by the Valley Ridge Extension Homemakers Unit.

Random coursed, rock faced limestone blocks are employed for the building's south, west and east elevations. The rear elevation wall is constructed of limestone rubble. A subtle quoining treatment is employed on the building corners and around the east and west elevation windows. Two-over-two, double hung windows are employed on these elevations, ashlar limestone sills and lintels offset these wooden windows. The facade treatment employs two 2/2 double hung arched windows, surmounted by limestone arches with keystones and imposts blocks. East and west elevation doors pierce the entry tower, a 2/2 double hung pierces the first level of the tower's southern elevation. The first level is sided with horizontal clapboarding, board and batten treatment is employed for the second level, diagonal wooden stripping is employed for the third level, the balustraded bell tower concludes the treatment. The tower stands on a limestone footing. A one-story, wooden basement entry projects from the northwest corner of the western elevation, it stands on a concrete base. A narrow brick chimney rises from the center of the rear wall.

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The school's interior space is comprised of a center entry foyer flanked by two coatrooms, all of which lead into the main classroom. The tower entry foyer is sided with horizontal boards, stepping across the school's original stone threshold leads into the school's original foyer area. An arched doorway with a double paned arched transom forms the original doorway, above it is the school's date and district number stone hidden by the tower. A four panelled bible door with a triple paned transom leads into a windowed coatroom and/or office space on the east and west sides of the foyer. A transomed four panelled bible door with sidelights leads from the foyer into the classroom. A four panelled bible door with a transom leads into the classroom from each of the coatrooms. Tongue and groove vertical wainscotting lines the walls of the classroom, the original foyer, and the coatroom areas. Picture rails run atop the doors and windows in the main classroom and two quarter height in the original foyer. A pressed tin ceiling graces the classroom, four milk glass globes hang from the ceiling. A stage stands at the north end of the classroom. A boxed in area stands in the northwest corner of the stage, made of wood, leading to the cellar and the outside access.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1878-1938

1878

Significant Dates

1878

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Buck Creek School (c. 1878) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Jefferson County, Kansas and for its architectural significance as a one room schoolhouse. The present Buck Creek School served the Jefferson County School District Number 43 from its completion in 1878 until 1952, when consolidation forced its closure. The school was sold to the Valley Ridge Extension Homemakers Extension Unit in 1954 for a meeting hall. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and a moderate degree of structural integrity, with evidence of water damage in the rotting boards in the entry tower ceiling, the slightly cracked rear stone wall, and the building's damp and musty odor.

School District Number 43 was organized in January, 1869. The first school was described in the 1873 Jefferson County Superintendent's Statistics for School District 43 as "An old frame 22 x 28. Poorly furnished and in dilapidated condition." This first school was located somewhere near the site of the present stone school. The 1878 Buck Creek School is located near the center of School District Number 43 in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ S.27 in Rural Township; the district served an area of approximately seven square miles.

In 1873 there were ninety-one school districts in Jefferson County, that number grew to ninety-three by 1883, to ninety-nine by 1888, to one hundred by 1898, and to one hundred and five by 1925. Most of the early and later school buildings were frame, making the stone construction of the Buck Creek School somewhat unique to Jefferson County. Buck Creek School was one of seven one room schoolhouses in Rural Township, today it is one of two that still stand; Chitwood or Clover Hill School (School District Number 53) stands abandoned several miles northwest of the Buck Creek School.

Buck Creek School exemplifies the prototypical, one room country schoolhouse in its form and design. The one story, gable facade schoolhouse with four large windows piercing each of its two side elevations is typical of the one room schoolhouses constructed in Kansas during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The wooden entry tower that projects from the gabled facade is a less frequent addition that may date from the 1890s or 1900s.

☒ See continuation sheet

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This tower provides a much larger foyer area, the two original windowed coatrooms in the stone building remain intact. One can only speculate as to the reasons for the wide acceptance of this prototypical building form and remember that most nineteenth century rural school districts were independent bodies, able to select the most affordable and appealing school design desired without the constraints of statewide specifications.

Students of all ages attended the Buck Creek School. In 1883 a total of fifty-five students between the ages of five and eighteen attended classes at Buck Creek School, in 1898 sixty-two children aged five to nineteen studied at the school, in 1931 twenty-four students between the ages of six and twenty attended the school, and in 1941 to forty-three students aged five to nineteen studied at the school. The length of the school year at the Buck Creek School fluctuated between seven and nine months from 1873, the earliest date for which school district statistics were found, and 1952, the year that the school closed. The 1883 Annual Report for the district lists a standard curriculum for the late nineteenth century which included the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth levels of the Appleton Reader, the Swinton Speller, Harvey's English Grammar, the Cornell Primary Geography, Harper's Intermediate Geography, Guyot's Physical Geograpy, McVicar's Practical Arithmetic, Anderson's History of the United States, and Robinson's Algebra. Curriculums for later years were not found in the available school board records for the district.

Until the 1910s teachers did not remain at the Buck Creek School for more than one year at a time, although some did return to teach again several years later. It appears that many teachers worked on a rotational basis, serving other schools within the township or county at different years. Until the 1900s the ratio of male to female teachers was relatively even, after that time teaching at the Buck Creek School became strictly a female domain. Between 1873 and 1907 a teacher earned between thirty and fifty dollars a month at the Buck Creek School. By 1909 sixty dollars a month became the mean monthly salary for teachers at the school, this was increased to eighty dollars a month in 1919, and one hundred dollars a month throughout the 1920s. Teachers' salaries ranged from one hundred and five dollars a month to forty dollars a month from 1930 until 1943. In 1945 the Buck Creek School teacher earned one hundred and fifty dollars a month and for the last four years of the school's tenure, the teacher was paid two hundred and twenty-five dollars monthly.

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Buck Creek School served the families of School District Number 43 for seventy-five years as a center of education, public meetings, and social events. Buck Creek School's historical significance through its association with education in Jefferson County spans the period from 1878, when the first classes were held in it, to 1938, the National Register fifty year cut off date for significance, although the building remained in active use as a school until 1952. Buck Creek School is also architecturally significant as an example of the prototypical nineteenth century one room schoolhouse. Its period of architectural significance is defined by its construction date of 1878. In conclusion, Andrew Gulliford writes in America's Country Schools that "(c)ountry schools have always been important in the rural areas of this nation as a symbol of cultural continuity and of the opportunities gained from education."

9. Major Bibliographical Refer

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Kansas State Historical Society
Jefferson County, Kansas Register of
Deeds Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	5	3	0	1	4	8	0	4	3	2	6	6	0	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S27, T11S, R19E in Jefferson County, Kansas on a tract measuring 45' x 60', whose north-east corner is 14.1' directly northeast of the northeast corner of the school's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundard proceeds 60' south, 45' west, 60' north, and 45' east to the point of beginning.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The nominated property is located on less than one acre in a heavily agricultural part of Jefferson County. The school's dimensions are 25' x 40', a 10' perimeter of ground bounds the building on all sides. Although a larger area is historically associated with the school it does not contain resources that are currently viewed as significant for National Register purposes.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date November 7, 1988

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city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

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Acme Atlas of Jefferson County, Kansas, 1899.

Evertz Atlas of Jefferson County, Kansas, 1887.

Jefferson County, Kansas, Register of Deeds. Jefferson County School Board and Superintendents Records.

Annual Reports of the Jefferson County Superintendent, 1883, 1884, 1886, 1887, 1889, 1897, 1898.

Clerk and Treasurer's Report and Census, 1931-1949.

Plat and Record of School Districts.

Public Records Abstract, Quit Claim Deed, Harris and Arnett to School District #43, April, 1918.

Record of School District Boundaries.

Record of State School Funds, 1921-1929.

Record of Teachers Employed, 1925-1930, 1931-1953.

Register of Teachers Employed, 1887-1919, 1920-1925.

State and County School Funds, 1931-1949.

Statistics of School District #43, 1873-1883.

Mulvihill, Vicki. (National Register Draft, 1988.)

Ogle Atlas of Jefferson County, 1916.

